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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/853,648	05/14/2001	Vladimir Markovich Kozenkov	016660-082	6482

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EXAMINER

MCPHERSON, JOHN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1756

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

MS 6

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/853,648

Applicant(s)

KOZENKOV ET AL.

Examiner

John A. McPherson

Art Unit

1756

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/14/01, 7/18/01 and 12/21/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 9-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 9-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 56-036612 (JP '612). JP '612 discloses a method of producing a polarizing element irradiating polarized light to a thin film comprising a dichromatic dye. Furthermore, the light may be scanned in a patterned shape while its polarization direction is changed to obtain a mosaic-shaped polarizing element of locally differing polarization directions, or the light may be scanned while its output is changed to obtain a polarizing element of locally differing rates of polarization. See the abstract.

2. Claims 1-2, 9-10 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,024,850 to Broer et al. (Broer). Broer discloses a method of manufacturing a polarization filter in which a mixture of liquid crystalline di(meth)acrylate monomer and a dichroic colorant is provided on a substrate, oriented and polymerized by exposing it to radiation, as well as a polarization filter which is manufactured by the above method. See the abstract. Therefore, this invention is not novel.



Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-5, 9-13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-0366612 (JP '612) in view of Applicant's discussion of the prior art in the specification. The disclosure of JP '612 is discussed above in paragraph 1. However, JP '612 does not disclose exposing through a birefringent mask. In the Prior Art section of the specification, Applicant discloses that it is known to prepare a thin photo-patterned polarizer with a birefringent mask. See page 2, lines 3-9 of the present specification. It would have been obvious to utilize a birefringent mask, as known in the prior art, to provide the pattern exposure in the process of JP '612 because it is taught that exposing through a birefringent mask when preparing a thin photo-patterned polarizer makes the fabrication of multi-domain structures more cost-effective for wide viewing-angle LCD application.

4. The Examiner requests that Applicant provide a copy of the the admitted prior art reference "V.Kozenkov et al., SID'00 DIGEST, p.1099" discussed on page 2, lines 3-9 of the specification, because Applicant's discussion of this reference is utilized in the rejection above, and the Examiner has been unable to independently obtain the reference.


Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 6-8 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. McPherson whose telephone number is (703) 308-2302. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff can be reached on (703) 308-2464. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.



John A. McPherson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1756

JAM
December 4, 2002